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## Minutes of the 822nd Provincial Council Meeting Hales Corners, Wis., March 27-28, 2012

PRESENT: Fr. Tom Cassidy, provincial superior; Fr. Bill Pitcavage, Fr. Ed Kilianski, Fr. Byron Haaland, Fr. Jack Kurps and Br. Duane Lemke, councilors; Dn. David Nagel, treasurer; Fr. Terence Langley, provincial secretary; and Mary Gorski, minutes. The council was also joined by Fr. Javier Bustos and Msgr. Ross Shecterle in regards to Sacred Heart School of Theology's president-rector search, and by Fr. Bob Bossie in regards to the 8th Day Center.

- I. Council check-in – Councilors took time to update each other on themselves, ministries and personal concerns. Items of note:
  - Fr. Langley said that he is settling into his new position as provincial secretary; he has developed a greater sense of appreciation for the provincial superior's job as well as provincial administration.
  - Fr. Cassidy had a good visit in the Philippines; he attended the regional installation. He was impressed by the students and by the region in general. Fr. Cassidy said that SCJs there are very appreciative of the U.S. Province for its financial, educational and personnel assistance. An Indonesian SCJ who is in the Philippines now is expected to come to the United States this summer for ESL and the missology program. Fr. Cassidy also said that he recently attended a CMSM meeting; he noted that the standards regarding Instruments of Hope and Healing (protection of children) are being reviewed and that a few updates should be expected this summer.
  - Br. Lemke updated the council on activities in the formation community. He said that Fr. Tim Gray and Fr. Ed Zemlik have been good additions to the community.
  - Dn. Nagel was recently in Rome for meetings with the Finance Commission. Among the topics discussed were entities dependent on the General Aid Fund and options for their future financial well-being. He also talked briefly about construction of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake, noting that one of the subcontractors has closed its doors. The general contractor is dealing with the issue.
  - Fr. Kilianski said that 90% of the renovations at Our Lady of Guadalupe, Houston, have been completed and he is very pleased with what has been done. Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec is expected to go to Mexico in May to continue his Spanish studies. Fr. Vien Nguyen will be leaving during the summer to begin his studies in California. Fr. Kilianski said that it will be challenging to minister at OLG when there are just two full-time priests available.
  - Fr. Pitcavage had a good visit in Raymondville recently. No bids have been made on the SCJ house in Raymondville.
- II. Visioning
  - A. Introduction— During recent meetings the council discussed chapters from John Allen's *The Future Church*. For the March meeting, the council decided to use its visioning time to discuss national healthcare legislation, which states that religious employers may not be exempt from the mandate to cover family planning expenses, such as contraception. This is not only a national topic of discussion but an issue of

concern for the SCJs as a Catholic employer.

Dn. Nagel gave a brief background to the discussion. National health insurance legislation passed in 2010 has a provision that requires employers to provide contraception in their insurance coverage. There are some exemptions for religious organizations whose beliefs are against contraception, but most Catholic employers, including schools, hospitals and organizations such as the Priests of the Sacred Heart, are not exempt. A compromise was developed, but for self-insured employers, such as the SCJs, the compromise may not easily meet a Catholic organization's concerns.

The Priests of the Sacred Heart do not cover contraception in their current employee insurance. If the mandate remains in effect, the SCJs will have to offer contraception coverage beginning in August, 2012.

- B. Discussion — Councilors discussed the health care mandate in general and the issue of contraception. While there is discomfort in a government mandate that asks an employer to pay for something which goes against that employer's beliefs, there is also recognition that in order to find the compromises needed to cover as many Americans as possible with health-care the country is left with flawed national health insurance legislation. Yet as flawed as it is, it appears that more Americans will have access to health insurance under the "Obamacare" mandate than before it.

Councilors said that issues regarding health care are complicated and that the Catholic Church functions in a pluralistic society. It was noted that Catholic institutions offer family health coverage to couples that are in what would be considered "invalid" marriages. There are times when a woman is prescribed contraceptive medication for reasons other than birth control. It is hard to balance the beliefs of a Catholic employer with the many "gray areas" of health care concerns. Councilors will continue to monitor issues regarding the healthcare mandate.

- C. Next meeting — The topic of the council's next visioning discussion will be an evaluation of the province plan in light of the administration's final year of its term.

### III. President – Rector, Sacred Heart School of Theology

- A. Preparation — The search committee for the new SHST president-rector narrowed the candidates to two. These two candidates were to each meet with the council for a one-hour interview. Fr. Kurps, a member of the search committee, reviewed the selection process with the council. It was expected that the council would appoint one of the candidates presented as the new president-rector. During the interview each candidate would be asked to introduce himself and talk about his motivation in applying for the position. The floor would then be opened to councilors for questions.

#### B. Interviews

1. Fr. Javier Bustos — Fr. Bustos began by saying that he was humbled to be considered for the position. His first contact with SHST was in 1997 when he enrolled in its ESL program. He has an extensive history with the seminary, at which he now teaches, and said that he is in awe of SCJ spirituality, especially its focus on social justice issues. He said that whoever is named as president-rector must maintain the SCJ identity of SHST. He also noted the significance of a non-SCJ serving in the role.

Originally from Venezuela, Fr. Bustos is a priest with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and is involved in a variety of archdiocesan activities. He noted his passion for seminary education and the Church in general. He spoke about some of his hopes for the seminary, including capital improvements and developing funding resources to implement them, as well as enhancing opportunities for faculty to research and publish. He addressed formation for the pastoral concerns of today's Church, which might include new ministry structures (team ministry; multi-parish assignments) and an increasingly Hispanic population. He spoke of the ESL program and its strong reputation around the world. Fr. Bustos also addressed recruitment of students, sponsoring dioceses and orders, and faculty. He spoke of SHST's focus on older vocations but emphasized that its strong academic program is appropriate to seminarians of all ages.

When asked what the most important task of the rector is Fr. Bustos said it is to be a role model to the seminarians. The rector must be a pastor to the seminary community.

2. Msgr. Ross Shecterle — Msgr. Shecterle is from the Milwaukee area and returned to Wisconsin after serving as rector of the American College of the Immaculate Conception in Louvain, Belgium from 2007 through the institution's close in 2011. He spoke about his time in Louvain and the painful process of closing the school. Msgr. Shecterle admitted that he did not initially seek to apply for the SHST president-rector position. Instead, Cardinal Timothy Dolan surfaced his name and Archbishop Jerome Listocki suggested that he consider it. With his background in psychology and pastoral

counseling he had been considering work at a place such as the St. Luke Institute.

Msgr. Shecterle said that after closing a seminary program one of his first concerns about SHST was its stability, figuratively and literally. He said that he was very pleased when he toured the campus and got a sense of the facility. It left a strong impression; he didn't feel that his primary task as rector would be to simply keep the building functional.

He is learning about Fr. Dehon and the Priests of the Sacred Heart but said that his knowledge of the community and its charism is not extensive. However, he does have a strong devotion to the Sacred Heart. If chosen as president-rector he said that he would need to learn much more about the community to ensure that he is true to the mission of the seminary and the Priests of the Sacred Heart. He realizes the significance of the moment – a non-SCJ will be named as rector for the first time in the seminary's history.

Although he doesn't have extensive knowledge of SHST, he is familiar with seminary formation, as well as some of the formation issues of older men as compared to young adults.

He described his leadership style as collaborative, meaning that he seeks input and assistance. However, he emphasized that while he seeks input, he realizes that there are decisions that are the rector's alone to make and that he has to be decisive, taking into account the input of others. Msgr. Shecterle noted his prior work with bishops, which would be beneficial in his role of promoting the seminary and interacting with its sponsoring dioceses and orders.

As did Fr. Bustos, he said that one of the most significant tasks of the president-rector is to be a shepherd and role model to the seminary community.

- C. Selection — On the second day of their meeting the Provincial Council discussed the two candidates and their interviews with them the previous day. Councilors agreed that both were very impressive but in different ways. It was thought that either would do an excellent job at the seminary; each has extensive talents that would benefit SHST. Each has great passion for his vocation and for formation.

The council voted to appoint Msgr. Ross Shecterle as the next president-rector of Sacred Heart School of Theology. Councilors expressed their gratitude to the search committee for an excellent process that surfaced several qualified candidates. The fact that the decision was a difficult one showed the quality of each of the candidates presented. The SHST community as a whole was also thanked for its participation in the search process.

#### IV. Finance

- A. Reilly, Penner and Benton — An agreement has been reached with RPB regarding claims against it when RPB served as the auditing firm for the Priests of the Sacred Heart.
- B. Sodexo — A concern had been raised about Sodexo's labor practices in the Dominican Republic. A senior member of Sodexo management wrote an extensive response to the council in regards to the concern. The council was satisfied with the response and endorsed Dn. Nagel's proposal to contract with Sodexo to provide oversight for operations and maintenance of SCJ properties in the Milwaukee area including the Provinciate, Province Development Office, SHML, Woods Road, 37th Street and Dehon House, along with land that the province owns.

The cost will be \$289,000 a year and includes an on-site director (he or she will most likely have an office at the Provinciate) as well as janitorial equipment and supplies, landscape items, maintenance supplies, minor equipment, technical resources and administrative support, and an ADA compliance audit.

The job status of current employees will not be affected.

- C. Province Finance Commission — The council voted to appoint Fr. Greg Schill to a three-year term on the Province Finance Commission beginning April 1, 2012.
- D. Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Dn. Nagel said that work at SHML is approximately one week behind schedule. The management company will begin renting the complex the week of April 2; it is currently putting together the information packet about the property and finalizing pricing structures.

As he noted earlier in the meeting, one of the sub-contractors closed its doors. Horizon, the main contractor, hired another company to take its place; the change is expected to cost \$15,000 but there is money in the contingency fund to cover this.

The council discussed Phase II of the project, which would be the second wing of apartments open to the public. If work on Phase II begins when Phase I is completed, each unit is expected to cost approximately \$99,000. Estimated time for completion is 10 months.

Building Phase II immediately after Phase I would be less expensive than waiting. Dn. Nagel said that he has been very pleased with the work of the current contractor. Also, it was noted that the entire project has been approved by the City of Franklin. If the province moves forward with the next phase there is no need to go back to the city for approval

Dn. Nagel said that Phase II could be funded primarily from province reserves, though up to \$4 million may need to be borrowed from the Support and Maintenance Fund with a repayment plan of \$500,000 a year (estimated return on the investment would be 8% annually). Other funding options can also be considered. The management company estimates that once filled, the province can expect to make approximately \$500,000 a year on each of the 64-unit wings.

The council voted to approve construction of Phase II of SHML with an additional 64 units for a cost of \$6.8 million. This proposal will be sent to the General Council for review.

- E. Financial statements — Dn. Nagel offered councilors copies of the province financial statements for review. These include the financial audits of corporations that are a part of the province.
- F. Properties — The building on 37th Street in Milwaukee and the SCJs' house in Raymondville, Texas, are both on the market. Neither has attracted an offer. Dn. Nagel is considering reducing the asking price of the 37th Street property. The province is paying \$2,000 a week for 24-hour security at the building.
- G. Development offices — Representatives from the three province development offices met in Hales Corners recently; Dn. Nagel said that it went well. The offices will next meet at the National Catholic Development Conference in Nashville in September.

#### V. Administration

- A. The 8th Day Center — In September, 2011, Cardinal George of Chicago contacted Fr. Cassidy to express his concerns regarding the 8th Day Center's seeming support of a screening of "Pink Smoke Over the Vatican," a film that explores issues surrounding women's ordination in the Catholic Church. It was followed by a presentation and discussion by Fr. Roy Bourgeois, a Maryknoll priest who was excommunicated *latae sententiae* for his participation in a women's ordination ceremony.

The cardinal contacted Fr. Cassidy both because the province was a sponsoring community of 8th Day Center and Fr. Bob Bossie, an SCJ, was on the center's staff. The council discussed the cardinal's concerns at that time and felt that it had to respond to them. Councilors decided that the province would suspend its support of Eighth Day for an undetermined period of time and suspend Fr. Bossie's activity with the center. This suspension was to be reviewed in approximately six months.

The council invited Fr. Bossie to meet with them to review the events of last year. Councilors expressed their regret that Fr. Bossie was not initially a part of the dialogue regarding the cardinal's concerns. Several suggested that it was a learning experience; in the future they will be much more cognizant of the need to ensure that when issues of concern arise that SCJs who may be a part of those issues are also a part of the council's conversation in regards to them.

Councilors stressed that their decision to suspend Fr. Bossie's activity with 8th Day was not an action against him personally, but a part of their decision to suspend province support of the center.

Fr. Bossie expressed his appreciation for time with the council and comments made. He made several suggestions regarding the 8th Day Center, and also asked the council consider hiring a full time justice and peace director.

Following their meeting with Fr. Bossie, the council voted to lift Fr. Bossie's suspension from the 8th Day Center. This does not necessarily mean that he will return to work at it.

The council voted to fulfill the \$14,000 grant commitment that it made to the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for FY11. However, this is not an endorsement of future province support of the center.

Regarding Fr. Bossie's suggestion that the province hire a full-time justice and peace director, the council decided that this is something that the Province Justice and Peace Commission should discuss. The council will review recommendations from the commission in regards to a director.

Fr. Cassidy will send a letter to the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center explaining the council's decisions.

- B. Dedication of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake — Fr. Cassidy informed the council that he had been in contact with Archbishop ListECKI and that they agreed to have the dedication of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake on October 12 at 4 p.m. The archbishop will preside at the dedication.
- C. Sacred Heart Southern Missions — The council voted to appoint Fr. Robert Tucker to the SHSM board of directors for a three-year term beginning immediately.
- D. Personnel
  - 1. Fr. Mike McMillen — Fr. David Szatkowski is helping to prepare the next step in the process regarding Fr. McMillen's dismissal.
  - 2. Fr. David Szatkowski — Fr. Szatkowski has been assigned to Mississippi.
- E. Social Media — Religious communities and other organizations are beginning to look at members' use of social media, such as Facebook. Should guidelines and/or policies be established? Should members of a religious community be expected to keep their passwords on file with provincial administration? Clergy and religious must be especially mindful of the image they portray in social media. It is a topic for the council to keep in mind in the future.
- F. Novice Master — The council voted to extend Fr. John Czyzynski's term as novice master until September 1, 2013. In doing so, the council said that it must address the issue of Fr. Czyzynski's replacement. A part of that dialogue should include the possibility of sending novices from the U.S. Province to another entity for novitiate, such as the Philippines.
- G. Province Assembly — The July assembly will begin with the jubilee celebrations on July 9. It is anticipated that a representative from Guest House will do a day-long wellness presentation. Much of a second day will be organized by the Justice and Peace Commission; Fr. Kilianski said that Fr. John van den Hengel will be a part of this day. The final morning will be on finances.

It was suggested Wednesday be the day centered on Justice and Peace and that Fr. van den Hengel close the day as the main celebrant at Mass.

- H. Election Assembly — The council suggested that Fr. Jim Casper be contacted to see if he would be willing to moderate the election assembly. A planning committee, including the provincial secretary, needs to be established to prepare for the 2013 Election Assembly. The council will review names for that committee at its next meeting.
- I. Province Chapter — The council voted to appoint Fr. Joseph Dean as the chairperson of the planning committee for the next province chapter (2014). He will be asked to submit names for the council to consider for the chapter planning committee.
- J. Review Board — As noted at the last council meeting, The Capuchins disbanded the Milwaukee Area Review Board in January. The religious communities that utilized the board, including the SCJs, need to either establish their own boards or join together to form a shared board. Fr. Cassidy hosted a meeting of several Milwaukee area major superiors to discuss the issue. All were in favor of a collaborative effort.

It is thought that a person needs to be hired to administer either a new board, or a pool of people who would be available to serve on a rotating basis. Fr. Langley, Br. Frank Presto and Linda Church (province HR director) are developing a job description.

The major superiors will next meet on April 17. It is hoped that the new board can be in place by fall, 2012.

- K. Cameroon Centennial — Fr. Haaland and Fr. Kilianski will represent the U.S. Province at the November centennial celebration in Cameroon. They will contact the Cameroon provincial superior to work out the details.

- L. Province Committee on Nursing Concerns — Fr. Cassidy suggested that a committee be formed to help with the decision-making process in regards to whether an SCJ goes into nursing care. Fr. Pitcavage and Fr. Jim Brackin met twice to discuss possible candidates for the committee. Fr. Pitcavage presented the list of their suggestions. The council was in favor of all those listed; Fr. Pitcavage was asked to contact them. The council will review the list at its next meeting.

Fr. Pitcavage asked if the committee is to be an advisory one to help develop criteria regarding the need for nursing care or if the committee would be involved in the decision-making process of placing a man in nursing care. It was noted that ultimately, the decision regarding the assignment of an SCJ is with the provincial superior. A committee can only make a recommendation to the provincial. Fr. Cassidy acknowledge this to be the case, but prefers that several people give input on such a significant assignment decision. Further, it is Fr. Cassidy's hope that the province can look at ways of helping men remain in community longer, perhaps with hired assistance. Besides an emotional preference by most to not go to nursing care, helping a man to remain in community — even with hired assistance — is generally less expensive than nursing care.

- M. Local Leadership Meeting — The council felt that the March Local Leadership meeting went well; the speaker from Guest House was well received. All local coordinators/superiors received a summary of the meeting.

- N. Province Directory — The U.S. Province is in the process of inserting its province directory in the Rule of Life. Citations from the province directory have been placed topically next to Constitution and/or General Directory items. During this process Br. Frank Presto noticed a sequence problem with the Province Directory. Province Directory No. 117 would more appropriately fit after General Directory No. 118. The council decided to petition Fr. General and his council to change No. 117 in the U.S. Province Directory to No. 118. Fr. Langley will contact the General Curia about this.

- O. North American Meeting — The U.S. council will host the Canadian administration in Hales Corners for the May 2-3 North American meeting. Fr. Langley and Mary Gorski will work together to contact the Canadians regarding travel. As in the past, the group will gathering for dinner on May 2 and meet all day on May 3. Fr. Cassidy will help to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

- VI. Evaluation — Councilors briefly talked about their meeting. There was satisfaction with the discernment process for the president-rector, which took up much of the meeting. Again, it was noted that the decision was a difficult one because both candidates were well qualified.

- VII. Next meeting — The council will meet by conference call on Monday, April 2, at 1 p.m., to review these minutes.

## CALENDAR

April 15:	Easter Concert at Sacred Heart Monastery/School of Theology
May 2-3:	North American Councils Meeting, Hales Corners
May 15:	Mass for the Anointing of the Sick, SHM/SHST
May 30-31:	Provincial Council Meeting (budgets)
June 15:	Feast of the Sacred Heart
June 28:	Provincial Council Meeting (conference call re: formation)
July 9:	Province Jubilees
July 9-12:	Province Assembly, Hales Corners
July 16-21:	General Conference, Neustadt, Germany
July 23-25:	SCJ Major Superiors Meeting, Neustadt, Germany
October 12:	Dedication of Sacred Heart at Monastery Lake (Archbishop Jerome Listecky will join SCJs)

*Looking ahead to 2013, the next Mission Education Conference will be held at St. Joseph's Indian School in South Dakota April 8-9, 2013, and the province election assembly will be the week of June 3, 2013.*

## UPDATES

**Fr. Charles Yost's** current email address is:  
cyostscj@gmail.com

## NECROLOGY

**Fr. Adrian van Oeffelen**, a member of the Dutch-Flemish Confederation, died on April 1. He was born in 1925, professed in 1947 and ordained in 1954.

**Br. Camillo Pellegrini**, a member of the Cameroon Province, died March 21. He was born in 1938 and professed in 1954.

**Fr. Jerry Sheehy**, a member of the British Irish Province, died March 9. He was born in 1957, professed in 1976 and ordained in 1982.

**Fr. Bernhard Brinks** of the German Province died on March 6. Fr. Bernhard was born in 1946, professed in 1969 and ordained in 1973.

**Fr. Ferdinand Hermanto Riyadi**, a member of the Indonesian Province, died on February 28. He was born in 1974, professed in 2000 and ordained in 2008.

**Fr. Enrico Ceroni**, a member of the North Italian Province, died February 22. He was born in 1927, professed in 1946 and ordained in 1955.

**Fr. Sidinei Nascimento Guarda**, a member of the North Brazilian Province, died on February 19. He was born in 1974, professed in 1999 and ordained in 2007.